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CHAMPS Becomes a Reality

How much paperwork does it take to automate FNS? Deputy Administrator for Management Joe Leo (left) is shown putting the final document, the signed CHAMP contract, on top of the pile.

CHAMP stands for Computer Hardware Acquisition and Modernization Program.

Others who worked on various components of the automation effort during the past 3 years are (standing left to right) Linda Persons, ADP contracting specialist; Victor Riche, who is in charge of peripherals, software, and training; Larry Heffel, software project leader; Jerry Kroshus, hardware (CHAMP) project leader; and Carol Naughton (seated), director, Information Resources Management Division.



-Story by Pat Porter
Management Staff



**"WE GIVE
THANKS"**

Crow Meets With Food Stamp Directors at APWA Meeting

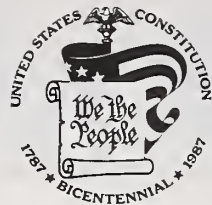
Associate Administrator Sonia Crow fielded questions from an audience of national food stamp directors at an American Public Welfare Association (APWA) meeting in Kalispell, Montana, during early October.

The APWA group questioned Crow about a variety of initiatives affecting their programs. The Associate Administrator continued discussions on the future of quality control sanctions, employment and training programs, and welfare reform.

The 3-day meeting attracted nearly 200 food stamp directors and staff from across the country.

-Story by Craig Forman
Mountain Plains Public Affair Staff

MARO Hosts Speaker on Constitution



A guest speaker helped MARO celebrate the 200th birthday of the Constitution. MARO Toastmasters hosted Hanan M. Isaacs, attorney at law with the New Jersey law offices of Felmeister and Isaacs.



MARO Toastmaster's Acting President Alexis Lometz introduces Constitution speaker Hanan Isaacs.

Isaacs gave a spirited and informative account of the Constitution's history, its contents, and its future to about 60 FNS employees.

Isaacs noted that this was the first Constitution the world knew. The Constitution became a binding set of legal doctrines that gave people avenues of redress, without violence. For the first time in history, people were able to sue, to lobby, to state their cases without fighting.

He called Constitutional law a secular religion. "As with a religion," he explains, "people believe in the Constitution passionately, believe in interpretations passionately, and want to change it."

Isaacs described those who formed the Constitution as revolutionaries and philosophers—"very bright folks" who knew that their document was not perfect. Isaacs portrayed the Constitution as an ever-changing document that allowed for amendments and interpretations.

He noted three revolutions of the Constitution: (1) its creation; (2) the civil war amendments abolishing slavery and establishing rights that states can't deny its citizens; and (3) new interpretations from the 1930s that began to establish a social safety net, with changed ideas of life, liberty, and property.

"We revere and respect the Constitution," says Isaacs. "We've gotten more out of it than it's gotten out of us. We don't really want to change that."



Food Program Specialist Jeff Hawk asks where in the Constitution is there a basis for the Hatch Act, which restricts government workers from political activities.

-Story by Linda Feldman
Photo by Marian Wig
MARO Public Affairs Staff

Leo Donates TV to Children's Hospital

Administrator Anna Kondratas (center) and Deputy Administrator for Management Joseph Leo recently presented Camille Bock (right) of Children's Hospital, Washington, D.C., with a 19-inch color television. The television was donated to Children's Hospital on behalf of FNS. Leo was the lucky winner of the television while attending the American Public Welfare Association Conference held in New Orleans recently.

Children's Hospital was very appreciative of the television. It will be used for staff and patient training and to entertain children who require hospital care for extended illnesses.

-Story by Personnel Division



"USDA Choice" Struts



Midwest Region Family Nutrition Program and Evaluation Staff, nicknamed "USDA Choice," placed 12th in the Donner Mountain Corporate Strut, a distinctive businesswomen's walking relay race. Representing FNS were (left to right) Carol Terp, Lynnda Kiess, Celeste Zywicki, Gilda Karu, and Susan Young.

Each contestant, wearing a business suit and laced sneakers, carried a briefcase containing business shoes, one unanswered memo, and the "Strut" rules on the 1.5 mile course.

The Chicago women used a newspaper as the baton. Food Program Specialist Tony Saldukas was an official "USDA Choice" coach.

-Story and Photo by
Midwest Public Affairs Staff

Compliance Branch Investigations Rise to an All-Time High

During Fiscal Year 1987, the Family Nutrition Program's Compliance Branch initiated investigations in 6,997 retail food stores to determine the level of compliance with Food Stamp Program rules and regulations. This was a 29 percent increase over the number of investigations initiated in Fiscal Year 1986 when investigations of 5,406 stores were conducted.

The significant increase is attributed to the change in investigative strategy introduced by the Compliance Branch at the beginning of Fiscal Year 1987. The number of stores investigated in which there was some evidence of violations increased 40 percent in 1987 to 4,067, as compared to 2,903 in Fiscal Year 1986.

The number of stores investigated in which the investigation disclosed serious violations warranting disqualification increased 53 percent in Fiscal Year 1987 to 2,670, as compared to 1,743 in Fiscal Year 1986.

The overall record marks the Compliance Branch's most successful year in the 11-year history of the Branch.

-Story by Joe McLin
Program Accountability Division

Midwest Hosts Regional Office/State Agency Training Conference

Ninety-nine Midwest state and federal Child Nutrition Program staffers participated in the Midwest Regional Office/State Agency Training Conference (ROSATC) at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois. The conference is held once every 2 years and is specially designed to encourage an active exchange of problems and solutions.

This year's conference covered aspects of School Meal Programs, the

Child Care Food Programs, the Food Distribution Programs, Civil Rights, and professional skills development.

National office staffers Kay Tibbits and Georgiana Gordon of the Child Nutrition Division and Joan Turetsky and Meg Binzer of the Nutrition and Technical Services Division contributed to the success of the conference.



State agency consultants (from left) Kathleen Bass (WI), Gary Zarcone (WI), David Dees (WI), Nutrition Chief Kathleen Cole (WI), and Child Nutrition Program Supervisor Margret Drey (MN) learn of new computer software for office management, food service, nutrition education, and nutrient analysis demonstrated by Information Specialist Frank Whitney (IL) (seated).



Mike Iribarren, Michigan monitoring and compliance coordinator, expresses concern about and presents ideas for prevention of discrimination in the school lunch program.

-Story and Photos by
Midwest Public Affairs Staff

MWRO Hosts Financial Management/ADP Conference

The Midwest Region hosted a Financial Management/ADP Conference for 48 Midwest state agency financial management and automated data processing (ADP) representatives.

Deputy Administrator for Financial Management Jack Radzikowski and Deputy Administrator for Management Joe Leo emphasized the importance of assessing state cost-effectiveness in administering programs, the conversion to electronic data transfer versus paper reporting, and the use of ADP plans using advanced technology to avoid system obsolescence before the date of implementation.

State financial management representatives of FNS programs shared procedures, problems, and solutions with regional staff. Accuracy, timeliness, and quality were stressed as a must in data management by state agencies.



(From left) Deputy Administrator for Financial Management Jack Radzikowski, Deputy Administrator for Management Joe Leo, Midwest Regional Administrator Monroe Woods, and Midwest Regional Financial Management Director Ollice Holden met with state financial management representatives in Chicago.

-Story and Photo by
MWRO Public Affairs Staff

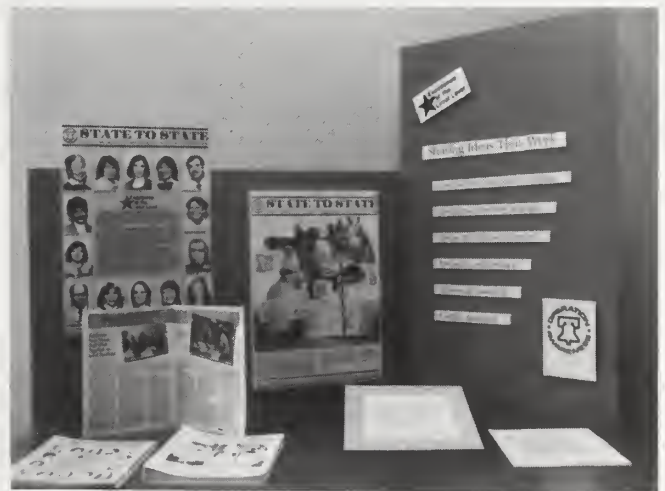
WRO Cosponsors Food Stamp Error Reduction Conference

New error reduction techniques, claims establishment and collection methods, and management strategies were among the topics addressed during a 3-day error reduction workshop in San Francisco.

The conference, titled "Partners in Progress--Meeting the Challenge," was sponsored by the Western Region and the California Department of Social Services. Approximately 200 people attended each day, representing most California counties, several other WRO states, and some private management consultants.



WRO Family Nutrition Program Director Allen Ng welcomes conference participants at the opening session.



The FNS State to State magazine display in the exhibit room.

(FS Conference continued page 7)

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of August with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>August 1986</u>	<u>July 1987</u>	<u>August 1987</u> <u>2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.)	19.2	18.7	18.7
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	867.5	852.3	845.3
Average bonus per person	\$ 45.26	\$ 45.57	\$ 45.26
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	958.4	948.7	941.7
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	23.9	28.8	26.7
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	22.5	26.4	25.3
Percentage of all meals served free	76.8	77.0	77.2
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	33.9	42.0	39.7
<u>Summer Food Service Program:</u>			
Number of meals served (mil.)	20.3	43.6	20.8
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	29.0	69.3	32.0
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.)	3.3	3.4	3.4
Food cost (\$ mil.)	106.9	114.7	113.4
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	130.6	141.9	139.2
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>			
People participating (thous.)	134.6	156.4	159.2
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	2.4	2.7	2.7
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation	106	107	107
People participating (thous.)	150.0	149.9	147.1
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	3.9	4.3	4.3
<u>TEMPORARY EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:</u>			
Total USDA cost (\$ mil.)	75.0	71.9	70.0

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of October 23, 1987.

3/ Includes data for Commodity Elderly as of January 1987.

Note: No data are provided for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs during the summer months.

National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant, and Fetal Nutrition Holds Meeting

The National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant, and Fetal Nutrition met recently in Chicago, Illinois, to continue studying the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The Council also worked on developing preliminary recommendations for the 1988 biennial report to the President and Congress. Nineteen of the 21 members from across the country attended the meeting.

Assistant Secretary John W. Bode, who is the Council chairperson, led discussions on several issues of current concern.



Former Supplemental Food Programs Director Pat Clerkin (center) and National WIC Advisory Council members toured Chicago's Commodity Supplemental Food Program sponsored by Catholic Charities. CSFP Director Dennis McSwain (right) explains how participants "shop" for monthly commodity food packages.

Patrick Clerkin, former director of the Supplemental Food Programs Division, opened the meeting with welcoming remarks along with Midwest Regional Administrator Monroe Woods. James Nelson, the Illinois State WIC director, whose division also administers the CSFP, explained the supplemental food program operations in Illinois and the State's initiatives to reduce infant mortality rate.

The Council's next meeting is planned for the spring/summer of 1988 to finalize recommendations and to draft the 1988 report.

-Story and Photo by Doris Dvorscak
Supplemental Food Programs Division

(FS Conference continued from page 5)

The exchange of ideas was encouraged by an agenda which included speakers, panel discussions, small group work sessions, group discussions, exhibits and videotape presentations.

Participants at this third annual regional error reduction conference commented that the workshops help them maintain their contacts throughout the year. Several applauded the opportunity for Federal, state, and local administrators to meet among themselves and with outside consultants to discuss the management and direction of the Food Stamp Program.

-Story and Photos by
Tino Serrano and Lois Grunwald
WRO Public Affairs Staff

Merit Pay Increases Due in November

Merit increases for Performance Management and Recognition System employees should be received in pay checks the week of November 29, 1987. Since the merit increase is retroactive to October 11, a payment for two pay periods will be included. The merit increase will be added to base pay as follows:

If salary is less than the pay level for step four of the General Schedule for the corresponding General Management grade:

<u>Employee's Rating</u>	<u>Increase Received</u>
Fully Successful or greater	Full merit increase (about 3% of base pay)
Less than Fully Successful	No merit increase

If salary is equivalent to steps four through ten of the General Schedule for the corresponding General Management grade:

<u>Employee's Rating</u>	<u>Increase Received</u>
Outstanding	Full merit increase (about 3% of base pay)
Superior	One-half of merit increase
Fully Successful	One-third of merit increase
Marginal or below	No merit increase

Mountain Plains Exceeds CFC Goal By 26 Percent

In a short but effective campaign, staffers at the Mountain Plains Regional Office in Denver exceeded their set goal for the Combined Federal Campaign by 26 percent this year. The FNS goal had been set at \$7,500, and staffers raised \$10,225.31.

Nancy Palmer, this year's CFC chairperson, credited the generosity of staffers and the effective work of keypersons Greg Hoover, Gale Brady, Jim Feldewerth, Sharon Mischler, Tracie Parker, Art Gutierrez, Joanne Widner, and Jean Liekhus.

The MPRO campaign began October 6 with an all-employee meeting. Following opening remarks by Regional Administrator David Alspach, staffers heard a slide-illustrated talk by Jean Finn, registered nurse with the Colorado Department of Health, on AIDS education and risk reduction.

Combined
19 Federal 88
Campaign



-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

On the Hill

On November 17, the Senate passed the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 1451, the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1987. The House had approved the Conference Report on November 10. Following is a summary of the FNS-related provisions:

- o The Nutrition Program for the Elderly (NPE) is reauthorized through Fiscal Year 1991 at the following levels:

- 1988 - \$151 million
- 1989 - \$166 million
- 1990 - \$183 million
- 1991 - \$201 million

- o The bill allows individuals of any age with disabilities who are members of the same household as an eligible older individual and who accompany eligible older individuals for nutritional services to participate in NPE.

- o The bill authorizes \$10 million for Fiscal Year 1989 and \$10 million for Fiscal Year 1990 for distribution to states for SSI/Medicare/Food Stamp outreach.

- o The bill includes a provision to disregard as income any funds which are received by individuals under the Community Service Employment Program for the purpose of determining income under the Food Stamp Act of 1977.

- o The bill requires that the Secretary of Labor develop a "reweighted" index of consumer prices which reflects the expenditures for consumption by retired Americans aged 62 and over.

- o The bill authorizes the President to call a White House Conference for Aging in Fiscal Year 1991.

- o The bill amends The National School Lunch Act to extend eligibility for Child Care Food Program meal and commodity benefits to public or private nonprofit adult day care centers or proprietary Title XIX or XX centers,

licensed or approved to provide adult day care. The conferees noted in the Conference Report that "as defined by the National Council on Aging, in association with the National Institute on Adult Day Care, 'adult day care' is a community-based group program designed to meet the needs of functionally impaired adults through an individual plan of care. It is a structured, comprehensive program that provides a variety of health, social, and related support services in a protective setting during any part of the day, but less than 24 hours care. Individuals who participate in adult day care attend on a planned basis during specific hours. Adult day care assists its participants to remain in the community, enabling families and other care givers to continue caring for an impaired individual at home." The significance of the language in the Conference Report is that it clarifies that only public or nonprofit organizations that are specifically designed to serve functionally impaired adults can participate in the Child Care Food Program.

Adult day care centers determined to be eligible under this amendment may participate in the Child Care Food Program and receive cash or commodity assistance under the nutrition programs of the Older Americans Act. They cannot, however, receive benefits or reimbursements from both programs for the same meal served.

- o The bill sets a maximum amount of money which may be transferred between Title III-B and Title III-C of 30 percent for any fiscal year. The Commissioner of the Administration on Aging is instructed to report to the Congress why such "transfers" are necessary.

- o The bill will be sent to the President for signature next week. The provisions of the bill will become retroactively effective to October 1, 1987.

-Story by Frank Ippolito
Governmental Affairs Staff

Job Opportunities

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Clerk-Stay in School	(A)	GW-303	1/2	Open	88-SIS	FNS
o Clerk/Typist	(L)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until filled	None	FNS
o Secretary/Typing	(A)	GS-318	4/5/6	Open Continuous	88-999	FNS
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-630	11/12/13	12/7/87	87-H-10	HNIS
o Pers Stffg & Class Spec1st, Br. Chief Temp, NTE 120 Days	(FNS-N)	GM-201	14	11/24/87	87-138	PED
*o Accountant	(G)	GS-510	7	12/7/87	87-140	ACD
o Program Analyst Temp, NTE 6 Months	(A)	GS-345	12/13	11/30/87	87-142	OAE
o Food Program Spec1st Schedule B (GS-11 Potential)	(G)	GS-120	5/7	12/7/87	87-144A	CND
o Food Program Spec1st Prom Pot to GS-11	(A)	GS-120	5/7	12/7/87	87-144	CND
o Management Analyst Schedule B (GS-11 Potential)	(A)	GS-343	5/7	12/15/87	87-145A	IRMD
o Management Analyst Prom Pot to GS-11	(G)	GS-343	5/7	12/15/87	87-145	IRMD
o Spvry Equal Opty Spec (USDA) Temp Prom NTE 120 Days		GM-360	13	12/7/87	87-146	CREEO
o Writer Editor (Prom Pot to GS-11)	(FNS-H)	GS-1082	7	11/30/87	87-147	OGAPI
o Secretary-Typing Prom Pot to GS-6	(USDA)	GS-318	4/5	12/14/87	87-148	PED
o Pers Actions Clk-Typg (USDA)		GS-203	3/4/5	12/14/87	87-149	PED
o Systems Accountant Detail/Temp Prom NTE 1 Yr	(FNS-H)	GS-510	13	12/4/87	87-150	ACD
o Accounting Technician Upward Mobility (Target = GS-510-7)	(FNS-H)	GS-525	5	12/7/87	87-151	ACD

* - Extension of Closing Date

ACD - Accounting Division
 CND - Child Nutrition Division
 CREEO - Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Division
 FNS - Food and Nutrition Service
 HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 IRMD - Information Resource Management Division
 OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation
 OGAPI - Office of Governmental Affairs and Public Information
 PED - Personnel Division

Area of Consideration

(L) - Local Commuting Area
 (FNS-H) - FNS Headquarters
 (FNS-N) - FNS Nationwide
 (A) - All Sources
 (G) - Government Wide
 (USDA) - U.S. Department of Agriculture